

REMARKS

The interview with examiner Hanh V. Tran on December 21, 2005 is acknowledged with appreciation. The examiner's interview summary is accurate as to what transpired at the interview.

The specification is proposed to be amended to recite that the vertically extending wall 57 of the load-carrying slide 12 is generally flat and defines a plane as shown in, for example, Fig. 5.

Claims 1-17 and 21-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 as indefinite. Claims 1-3, 5, 14 and 21-23 have been amended to change "entry/exit" to "entry and exit" as suggested in the office action. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Claims 1-2, 4-5, 7, 11-12, 14, 18-19 and 24-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 as anticipated by Dubon et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,938,967).

Claim 1 is directed to a telescoping slide assembly comprising interconnected load-carrying, intermediate, and stationary slides, the load-carrying slide being formed to include a keyhole-shaped slot, and a post retainer including an arm formed to include a retention aperture and being coupled to the base to move away from the load-carrying slide. Dubon et al.'s post retainer 66 is arranged to move along the slide not away as recited in applicant's claim 1. For at least this reason, claim 1 and dependent claims 2-16 avoid the above-noted rejection.

Claim 18 is directed to telescoping slide assembly comprising interconnected load-carrying, intermediate, and stationary slides, the load-carrying slide having a generally flat wall and being formed to include a slot surrounded in the plane of the wall by the generally flat wall, and a post retainer coupled to the load-carrying slide and arranged to extend through the slot formed in the load-carrying slide. Dubon et al.'s slot 16 is open at the top, it is not surrounded in the plane of the wall by the generally flat wall as recited in applicant's claim 18. For at least this reason, claim 18 and dependent claims 19 and 24-25 avoid the above-noted rejection.

Claim 26 is directed to telescoping slide assembly comprising interconnected load-carrying, intermediate, and stationary slides, a generally flat wall of the load-carrying slide being formed to include slots adapted to receive a mounting post, at least one of said slots being formed to permit the post only to enter the slot by moving generally perpendicular to the plane of the generally flat wall and a post retainer. Dubon et al.'s slots 16 are open at the top, not formed to permit the post only to enter the slot by moving generally perpendicular to the plane of the

generally flat wall as recited in applicant's claim 26. For at least this reason, claim 26 and dependent claims 27-30 avoid the above-noted rejection.

Claims 3, 6, 8-10, 13, 15-17 and 20-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as obvious over Dubon et al. in view of Lauchner et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,796,625). The office action urges that it would have been obvious to modify Dubon et al. by providing the arm with a lift tab as taught by Lauchner et al.

Claims 3, 6, 8-10, 13 and 15-17 are dependent on claim 1 and avoid this rejection for the same reasons as noted above with respect to claim 1.

Claim 20 has been amended to be in independent form. Claim 20 is directed to telescoping slide assembly comprising interconnected load-carrying, intermediate, and stationary slides, and a post retainer wherein the post retainer further includes a distal end formed to include a lift tab arranged to extend at an angle relative to the base in a direction toward the intermediate slide upon movement of the load-carrying and intermediate slides to a retracted position within the stationary slide. Dubon et al. and Lauchner et al. taken alone or in combination do not arrive at the invention of claim 20. Dubon et al. does not, as recognized at page 4 of the above-noted office action, teach or suggest the lift tab of claim 20. It would not have been obvious to modify Dubon et al. to provide Lauchner et al.'s lift tab because there is no motivation in either Dubon et al. or Lauchner et al. to do so and such modification would not enhance the slide latch 66 of Dubon et al. For at least these reasons, claim 20 and dependent claims 21-22 avoid the above-noted rejection.

Claim 23 has been amended to be in independent form. Claim 23 is directed to telescoping slide assembly comprising interconnected load-carrying, intermediate, and stationary slides, and a post retainer wherein the post retainer includes, in series, a base, a body formed to include the retention aperture, an actuator arranged to intercept a mounting post moving into an entry and exit portion of the slot, and a lift tab arranged to extend at an angle relative to the body. Dubon et al. and Lauchner et al. taken alone or in combination do not arrive at the invention of claim 23. Dubon et al. does not, as recognized at page 4 of the above-noted office action, teach or suggest the lift tab of claim 23. It would not have been obvious to modify Dubon et al. to provide Lauchner et al.'s lift tab because there is no motivation in either Dubon et al. or Lauchner et al. to do so and such modification would not enhance the slide latch 66 of Dubon et al. For at least these reasons, claim 23 avoids the above-noted rejection.

In view of the above, it is submitted that all of the claims (Nos. 1-30) are in condition for allowance and such action is, respectfully, requested.

If there is any issue remaining to be resolved, the examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned so that resolution can be promptly effected.

A check for \$200 for two additional independent claims accompanies this amendment. It is requested that, if necessary to effect a timely response, this paper be considered as a Petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response with the fee for such extensions and shortages in other fees, being charged, or any overpayment in fees being credited, to the Account of Barnes & Thornburg, Deposit Account No. 10-0435 (3467-72965).

Respectfully submitted,

BARNES & THORNBURG LLP

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Richard B. Lazarus".

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